

Dear Parishioners

First a reminder that today we have a special Advent candle service to which young and old are invited to remind ourselves what Christmas is really about. We oldies will begin in a candle lit church at 4pm while the children over in the hall prepare decorations for their safety candles. (Parents don't worry: only the adults will be able to set each other's hair on fire!) Then after 40 minutes the children will join us for the conclusion of the service. All are welcome, including your non-Catholic friends.

Congratulations to all who contributed to the success of the Christmas Fayre which raised a magnificent £2,194.25. Well done and thank you all for your work, donations and support.

This week the church will be closed each day from Wednesday to Friday. This is to allow the bottom step of the sanctuary to be refurbished and to increase the width of the front aisle and so facilitate the distribution of Holy Communion at Christmas and on other crowded days. The increased width will also assist a swift evacuation of the church through both the side door and presbytery if such a need ever arose. The work involves removing old wooden underpinning and replacing the marble that was damaged when the altar rails were moved some years ago. It will also reveal the last section of the sanctuary's beautiful Victorian tiles. The church will be closed for the full three days to ensure that work is completed in time for Katie Lofthouse's wedding on Saturday but Mass will be celebrated each evening at 7.30pm.

Last year I introduced you to *Olive Aid*. This is a charity which helps all Palestinians who have lost their olive trees, usually their only source of income to the expansion of illegal Israeli settlements and that dreadful security wall. Olive trees are precious: just twenty trees can sustain a family for a year. *Olive Aid* is a self-help project run by the Catholic Bethlehem University which provides needy families with 3 year old olive saplings. Christian and Muslim alike are helped but the project particularly aims to stem the emigration of Christian families who suffer the most in the conflict. Today, Christians in Bethlehem constitute less than 15% of the population. Fifty years ago, Christians living in the birthplace of Jesus made up more than 70% of the population. You can buy a tree for £25. For details see me or go to www.oliveaid.com It is a Christmas Charity that I support and a number of parishioners contributed with me last year. *Fr John*

Parish of Our Lady of the Valley

Catholic Communities of Clitheroe & Sabden

Lowergate, Clitheroe, Lancs BB7 1AG

Tel 01200 423307 website: olotv.org.uk

Email: smsj@btinternet.com Parish Priest: Mgr John Corcoran RD

Assistant Priest: Fr Frankie Mulgrew

Second Sunday of Advent - 8th December 2013

St Michael & St John's, Clitheroe

Sunday

Mass at 9.30am followed by coffee

Monday, Tuesday

Mass at 9am

Wednesday, Thursday & Friday

Mass at 7.30pm

Saturday (14th December)

Reconciliation (Confession) 11am - 11.45am

Exposition 11am - 11.55am Rosary 11.30am

Eucharistic Service 12noon

Wedding at 1pm - Katie Lofthouse & Chad Mayoh

First Mass of Sunday 6pm



St Mary's Church, Sabden

Sunday - Mass at 11am followed by coffee Friday - Mass at 9.15am

MASSES RECEIVED THIS WEEK

Natalie Wilson, Julie Fitzsimmons, Kathleen McNally, Anthony Wornwell, John Humphreys, Stephen Humphreys, Kenneth & Janet Barlow, Richard Embery, Mary Astin, Monica Hargreaves, Special intentions x 6, Rosemary Doherty, Mary Cushion, Alice & Patrick Emmerson.

SICK

Sally Hickling, Teresa Tomlinson, Peter Wright, Nigel Winnard, Mary & Pat Shepherd, Bob Morrison

LATELY DEAD

Monica Hargreaves, Rosemary Doherty, Julie Fitzsimmons, Pat Pozzi

ANNIVERSARIES

Mary Astin, Kathleen McNally, Richard Embery, Kenneth & Janet Barlow

OFFERTORY Clitheroe £739.21 Sabden £178.81 S/Orders £201 Many thanks
S.V.P. COLLECTION Clitheroe £515.01
R.C.I.A. The R.C.I.A. programme continues on Thursdays at 8pm after 7.30pm Mass

ADVENT SERVICE OF LIGHT

Today Sunday, 8th December at 4pm. Children begin in the Hall making lanterns for their safety candles before joining adults in a candlelit church to listen to the story of how Christmas began with the Annunciation. This service is for all ages and was a huge success last year, so do come and join us as part of your spiritual preparation for Christmas.

CAFOD Carols by Candlelight at St John's Padiham, 7pm Friday 13th December. See poster

APOSTLESHIP OF PRAYER leaflets for December now available from porch

2014 DIARIES are now on sale from the back of church at both Clitheroe & Sabden the cost is 50p Please put money in C.T.S. box

ST AUGUSTINE'S CAROL SERVICE Tuesday 10th & Wednesday

11th December Tickets £3 adults £2 (under 12's) Includes mulled wine and seasonal refreshments. Swing Band afterwards. All proceeds to CAFOD

K.S.C.COUNCIL MEETING Tuesday 10th December 7.30 in the presbytery.

CLITHEROE

SOCIAL CENTRE Sunday In addition to the usual Quiz on a Sunday evening is 'Play your Cards Right'. Please come along - Everyone welcome.

LADIES GROUP Our new programme of events for 2014 is now available from the back of church.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT St Mary's College, Blackburn are holding a Concert on Monday 9th December in the O'Neill Academy for Performing Arts Theatre at 7pm. £3.50 pay on the door

LADIES GROUP ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER This year we are holding this event at Waddow Hall. Cost £21 all inclusive. Menu's are available from the back of church (printed on bright yellow paper). Please let either Daphne 01200 427912 or Janet 01200 423307 have your menu choice and money S.A.P.

K.S.C. FUN NIGHT - FAMILY QUIZ will be on Friday 27th December 7.30pm start. *Hot supper, but we need to know the numbers please* let Les Collinson 427029 or Arnold Marsden 427096 if you wish to come along. The H.C.P.T. cheque will be presented at this event.

CAROLS & CHRISTMAS MUSIC

Tuesday 19th December in our Parish Centre with live music from Slaidburn Silver Band & Music Group



All welcome for Mince Pies & mulled wine. Doors open 7pm

Rota Dec 14/15	Saturday	Sunday
Welcomers	M.Illingworth	J.Clegg & E.Davies
Readers	C.Riley	M.Barrett
Euch Min	T.Woodend & B.Taylor	G.Lambert, S.Smith, B.Collinson
Tea/Coffee		P.Byrne & Family

CHRISTMAS CARDS help will be needed to distribute Christmas Cards again this year. Please let Janet know if you are willing to help.

ADVENT LUNCH at The United Reformed Church this coming Tuesday 10th December at 12.30pm

JOY TO THE WORLD Christmas Concert at Trinity Methodist Church Saturday 14th December at 7.30pm. All the Churches in Clitheroe will be involved. Admission free but a retiring collection will be taken for Christian Aid. See poster in porch

PARISH DRAW WINNERS £100 - 188 G.Gorrighan, £25 137 K.Duckworth £10 - 22, K.Downes, 8 B.Parkinson, 248 J.Thornber, 135 M.Driver, 133 T.Mercer. Please collect your winnings from your agent.

LADIES GROUP FUND RAISING EVENT on Friday 24th January 2014 - Watch this space

LADIES GROUP COMMITTEE MEETING tomorrow Monday 9th December at 7.30pm in the presbytery.

MORE ITEMS FOR SALE - Diaries, Address books, Children's books, Ornaments etc at back of church plus a few Christmas Cards. Please put money in C.T.S. Box

CHRISTMAS TEA DANCE Wednesday 18th December in our Parish Hall. Admission £6.50 including Buffet tea and glass of wine. Please see Daphne for tickets 01200 427912

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL this year will be held in St Mary Magdalene's Parish Church from next Thursday 12th December to Saturday 14th. Opens at 7pm (Thursday) with Clitheroe Pop Choir. On Friday it is open from 11am - 4pm and on Saturday from 10am - 3pm. Why not go along to this now annual event to see the wonderfully decorated Christmas trees.

ST HUBERT'S DUNSOP BRIDGE Fr Chaloner thanks everyone who supported their Raffle and Bingo Night last Monday, the event raised £1,587 There will be a list of winners in the church porch.

SABDEN

BONUS BALL this weeks winner No 15 S.Brown

ADVENT SERVICES in our church Tuesday at 7.30pm. Come and join our journey to Christmas.

CAROLS around the tree today (Sunday) at 6.30pm. Fr Frankie will be coming and also another special visitor. All welcome.